

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ILO, PLAB

SUBJECT: ILO - RESOLUTION AGAINST ISRAEL

1. THE US MISSION IN GENEVA HAS REPORTED THAT A CRITICAL VOTE WILL TAKE PLACE ON JUNE 27 AT THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE IN GENEVA. THE ISSUE IS A RESOLUTION AGAINST ISRAEL, INTRODUCED BY SYRIA AND LIBYA AND SUPPORTED BY OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES AND THE SOVIET BLOC. THE RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED BY THE CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE BY ONLY A NARROW MARGIN; THEREFORE, THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT THE RESOLUTION CAN BE DEFEATED ON JUNE 27 IN THE CONFERENCE PLENARY. THE MISSION BELIEVES THAT THE VOTE OF BOLIVIA (WHICH VOTED FOR THE RESOLUTION IN COMMITTEE) BE CRITICAL.

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2. YOU ARE REQUESTED TO APPROACH HOST COUNTRY OFFICIALS AT THE HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL TO REQUEST THAT ITS DEL IN GENEVA BE INSTRUCTED TO VOTE AGAINST THE ANTI-ISRAEL RESOLUTION. YOU MAY WISH TO USE THE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS:

-- THE US IS NO LONGER A MEMBER OF THE ILO, BUT WE ARE

CLOSELY FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS AT THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE IN GENEVA.

-- THE RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE WILL WEIGH HEAVILY IN ANY DECISION BY THE USE TO RETURN TO THE ILO.

-- WE ARE CONCERNED THAT A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL HAS BEEN INTRODUCED BY SYRIA AND LIBYA AND IS SCHEDULED TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE CONFERENCE PLENARY ON JUNE 27.

-- THE APPROVAL OF THE RESOLUTION WILL HAVE A VERY NEGATIVE IMPACT ON PROSPECTS FOR US REENTRY, BECAUSE THE RESOLUTION VIOLATES THE ILO'S DUE PROCESS REQUIREMENTS.

-- OUR FRIENDS IN THE ILO ARE MAKING A STRONG EFFORT TO DEFEAT THE RESOLUTION AND HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF SUCCEEDING.

-- OUR MISSION IN GENEVA HAS INFORMED US THAT THE SUPPORT OF BOLIVIA IS CRITICAL IN DEFEATING THE RESOLUTION.

-- IT WOULD THEREFORE BE VERY HELPFUL IF THE GOVERNMENT OF BOLIVIA WOULD INSTRUCT ITS DELEGATION AT THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE TO VOTE AGAINST THE SYRIAN/LIBYAN RESOLUTION.

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-- IN VIEW OF THE SCHEDULED VOTE ON JUNE 27, SUCH INSTRUCTIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE CONVEYED IMMEDIATELY.

-- BECAUSE OF COMPLICATED ILO PROCEDURES, THERE ARE TIMES WHEN AN ABSTENTION HAS THE SAME EFFECT AS A NEGATIVE VOTE. CONSEQUENTLY, IF THE BOLIVIANS ARE FAVORABLE TO EMBASSY APPROACH, THEIR DELEGATION IN GENEVA SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO MEET WITH U.S. OBSERVER DELEGATION TO COORDINATE TACTICS. VANCE

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